PLANT FACT SHEET

Lespedeza juncea (L.f.) Pers.

GENUS *Lespedeza* **FAMILY** Fabaceae

COMMON NAMES Perennial Lespedeza

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

The leaves and shoots are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 1.5 m tall and spreads 0.3-1 m wide. It has a thick woody rootstock. The branches are erect. The leaves have 3 leaflets. The leaflets are softly hairy underneath. They are 0.7-2.5 cm long by 0.2-0.4 cm wide. They are oval or wedge shaped. The flowers are pea shaped and 0.7 cm long. The flowers are pink. The fruit are pods 3 mm long by 2 mm wide.

HABITAT

It suits subtropical and temperate regions. It grows on a range of soils but usually ones which are occasionally flooded. It will grow in sunny or lightly shaded sites. It is damaged by heavy frosts. In China it grows on mountain slopes below 1500 m altitude.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 100 Lespedeza species.

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